

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 19 | Humidity 55%

Partly Cloudy

Sensex 72,568 | Nifty 21,894 | Gold 62,445 | Silver 72,190 | Dollar 82.92 | Euro 90.73 | GBP 105.53

MOUNTED FORCE

Cops on a gallop



PAGE 3

DON'T SOIL IT

Soil stabilisation to better roads



PAGE 4

Open entrance of Halasuru Lake turns place for dumping garbage, construction and demolition debris

THE LAKE MINDED

Works worth Rs 3.10 cr already sanctioned for waterbody

I Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Halasuru Lake is one of the critical waterbodies in the Central Business District of the city.

Hundreds of people from surrounding areas visit the lake for a walk in the morning and evening.

The lake has the potential to become a favourite destination for the public, including children and senior citizens, if the authorities focus on the development of the lake.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) lakes department and Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad wanted to develop the lake but lack of funds became a major hurdle.

For example, the BBMP lakes department floated a tender for providing a link fence at Halasuru Lake at an estimated cost of Rs 70 lakh. The BBMP east zone executive engineer (lakes) floated the tender on January 9. The last date for submitting the bids is January 29.

However, the amount is meagre and is not sufficient to fill up broken or damaged portions of the existing fencing around the lake.

There is a vast area along Swami Vivekananda Park that has no fence and has become a dangerous spot for children.

"The developmental works

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>



“The strengthening of the outlet on the Gurudwara side will be taken up soon. We want to utilise Rs 70 lakh to replace damaged fences

— Executive engineer, BBMP

Being human around animals

Bannerghatta Biological Park to launch 10-month diploma course in zoo-keeping



I Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Authorities at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) are planning to introduce a 10-month diploma course in zoo-keeping due to the unavailability of trained zookeepers.

According to BBP officials, the course will be launched in association with a city-based higher educational institution, starting the upcoming academic year.

"We plan to collaborate with a university and start a diploma course in zoo-keeping. The course will be available for anyone who has passed PUC. There is a dearth of professional zookeepers. Karnataka itself has nine government zoos and many private animal centres. Under the cadre & recruitment rule of the Zoo Authority of Karnataka, government zoos can employ trained zookeepers. We are initiating the process of reaching out to the universities and plan to begin soon," said AV Surya Sen, deputy conservator of forests and executive director of BBP.

Officials said while the BBP currently

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

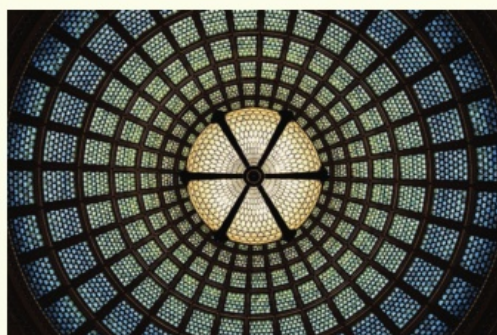
01 Dance in rhythms



This festive season, don't miss the chance to attend Kathak Sankranti Sambhram, which is going to be a mesmerising culmination of choreographic brilliance by Hari and Chethana.

This celebration intricately weaves together the elements of nritya, nritya, and abhinaya, showcasing the pure dance essence and expressive storytelling within the Kathak repertoire.

Where: Media Auditorium, Koramangala
When: January 15; 6:30 pm



02 Architectural beauty

The Indian Institute of Interior Designers Regional Chapter (IIID BRC) is all set to host its fourth design festival in the city. Designuru 4.0 is a week-long bi-annual fest to be conducted with the objective of taking design to the masses. It will witness on each day an array of talks, panel discussions, design installations, exhibits, movies, workshops, and adaptive reuse, curated by leading architecture practices from the city. For more information, log on to: www.iiid.in
Where: Rangoli Metro Boulevard
When: January 19 to 25

03 Spiritual growth



Thousands of people are expected to attend Sri Anand Mahotsav. Sri Sidheshwar Brahmrishi Gurudev, Tirupati, will address the gathering on subjects related to spirituality, love, and compassion. He is known to have addressed many people and inspired them to lead a happy life in Andhra Pradesh. He has also visited 192 countries to date. Entry is free. Where: The Royal Senate, Palace Ground (Gate No. 6) near Mekhri Circle;
When: January 14; 4 pm

New year, new routes

BMTC begins plying buses on new routes, providing improved connectivity for residents of Seegehalli and surrounding areas; women's collective rejoices at approval of their request

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The continuous efforts have paid off for women's collective Alli Serona and for the women of Bengaluru's informal workforce, as the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has taken cognisance of their demand for a new bus route that will connect approximately 3,000 residents living in and around Seegehalli.

In a recent poll conducted by the women from the community, over 1,131 individuals expressed their need for a bus stop at Seegehalli, not counting the thousands more who had also put forth their requirements for a bus stop on this route. In a pleasant start to 2024, buses have begun to ply on this route since the start of January, offering residents of Mallappa Layout, Sonnenhalli, Priyanka Nagar, SBQ, and Medahalli better connectivity to educational institutions and employment opportunities, impacting their overall quality of life in the city.

On Thursday, children and women from Priyanka Nagar and Seegehalli, who form a part of the Alli Serona, gathered to ride in the bus as a mark of celebration. Alli Serona, a collective of civil society organisations, ideators, and think tanks working to address the transport needs of women from the informal sector, has repeatedly highlighted mobility gaps in the city and also brought together experts and underserved women to co-create solutions like bus routes and walkable footpaths.

The Medahalli route holds significant importance as it is a crucial gateway for communi-



On Thursday, children and women from Priyanka Nagar and Seegehalli, who form a part of the Alli Serona, gathered to ride in the bus as a mark of celebration



This development brings immense joy. The dedicated efforts of the women in Seegehalli and Priyanka Nagar have borne fruit

— IS Patil, Alli Serona

ties, providing access to various key destinations. This route facilitates travel to essential areas such as Hoskote, the International Airport, and Silk Board and also links to KR Pura, KR Market, and Shivajinagar. The newly operational Seegehalli bus route will now also ensure first- and last-mile connectivity for women who need to commute to Majestic, which is a central transport hub; KR Market, the largest wholesale market in the city; and Shivajinagar, one of the busiest commercial areas.

Based on an audit report by the women from the collective itself, Alli Serona had suggested

five critically needed bus routes to BMTC in 2023, and in January 2024, their efforts to plug mobility gaps notched up a big win to kick off the new year.

Anuradha, a resident from Priyanka Nagar who is also an Alli Serona Woman Leader, said, "Being part of Alli Serona, I've had the privilege to engage with BMTC officials, discussing the underserved bus services in our community. We expressed our transportation challenges, and officials pledged to address them. During one interaction, we met DTO Mr Avinash, who later visited and assessed the proposed bus route by Alli Se-

rona Women, understanding our needs well." She added that the route from Shivajinagar to KR Pura, Seegehalli, and Medahalli now benefits housekeeping workers, high school students, single women, and visually impaired individuals. This route, particularly to Medahalli, serves Seegehalli and Priyanka Nagar, especially children.

IS Patil, Senior Community Coordinator at Seegehalli and Priyanka Nagar, Alli Serona Collective, said, "This development brings immense joy and satisfaction. The dedicated efforts of the women in Seegehalli and Priyanka Nagar have borne fruit."

Millet laddus added in anganwadi menu

The state government has decided to serve millet laddu instead of groundnut chikki on a pilot basis in anganwadis. Milk and eggs will continue to remain on the menu. The pilot project is being implemented for three months and will be continued if it receives a positive response from the children.

Prior to the decision, children between the ages of three and six were given groundnut chikkis for breakfast along with milk. Rice and sambhar, or dal khichdi, were provided for lunch. These items were made from raw materials that were supplied by

Prior to this decision, children between the ages of 3 and 6 were given groundnut chikkis for breakfast along with milk

the government. The Department of Women and Child Development would release funds for the purchase of various raw materials, including jaggery for chikki preparation, along with rice, pulses, and other groceries such as tamarind, oil, mustard,



and sambar powder, as well as vegetables.

However, the department has found that the preparation was not taking place properly,

leading to the children refusing to eat the peanut chikki during breakfast or falling sick after consumption. Quality issues were also noticed by the department during surprise visits.

The findings have resulted in the department choosing to revise the menu. Now, millet laddus will be provided in place of chikkis, and only vegetables, rice, and pulses will be purchased by the government. The other required materials for sambar will be provided in the form of a ready-to-mix powder. The khichdi will also be made from a ready-to-eat mix.

— BMB

Police on a gallop: City regains its 'mounted' force

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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Get ready for a unique sight on the city streets as horse-mounted cops have made a comeback! This revival comes after a decade-long hiatus from using horses for crowd control. These mounted cops are making their presence felt in bustling areas like Majestic, Vidhana Soudha, MG Road, and more.

Their mission? To keep a watchful eye on anti-social elements and troublemakers. If they spot any potential issues, these mounted officers alert their ground counterparts to take necessary action.

Commissioner of Police B Dayananda said, "This reintroduction of horse-mounted units is like implementing a towering presence. We've initiated this with horses from Mysuru's mounted company and their team. This is usually deployed

during weekends in congested areas for crowd control and monitoring potentially disruptive elements."

The recent appearance of horse-mounted cops at Vidhana Soudha surprised visitors. Currently, this system is exclusive to Mysuru, where horses are trained. These officers often participate in grand events like Independence Day and Republic Day parades. Six horses are currently in service, stationed at the City Armed Reserve unit, and are back on duty during weekends.

Nonetheless, Bangaloreans stress

"The horses lacked a permanent or full-time veterinarian and were surrounded by dirt, snakes, and other insects. The mounted police wing had experienced the loss of six horses



that the city police must ensure continuity of this practice, learning from past mistakes. In the past, the mounted police wing was disbanded due to the poorly maintained stables where the horses were housed. Despite appeals to refurbish the stables, it wasn't done. An article in Bangalore Mirror initially exposed the deplorable condition of the stables at the City Armed Reserve (CAR) headquarters on

Mysore Road.

A former police official said, "We require a commitment to maintaining hygienic conditions for the horses. Efforts were made, including the construction of sewers to prevent water stagnation. The plan included replacing the roof of the stables, re-plastering the sidewalls, and polishing the flooring. Even the building for the mounted police was slated for renova-

tion due to the appalling condition of the stables.

The horses lacked a permanent or full-time veterinarian and were surrounded by dirt, snakes, and other insects. The mounted police wing had experienced the loss of six horses. The stables, with mud tiles that were broken, permitted rainwater leakage, resulting in flooding during rainfall. We hope for improved conditions this time."

During Praveen Sood's tenure as City police commissioner, the mounted police was reintroduced to enhance vigilance against eve teasers, stalkers, thieves, and other anti-social elements. However, this initiative was later discontinued.

Mounted police were previously a tourist attraction and during various events, the horses also assisted in escorting dignitaries. In the past, police commissioners like L Revanasiddaiah and Dr Ajai Kumar Singh displayed special interest in maintaining the animals, even going on horse rides in Cubbon Park.

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RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

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Infrastructure now

Urban infra shall be an interplay of things that puts the pedestrian navigating the commons at the centre as we reorient the city towards a walkable, green, emissions and effluents-free future.

A minor disconnect/flip in mobility, the daily waste management cycle (think of it as supply chain disruption) or disparities in housing, non-maintenance of parks, lakes or urban commons shall irreparably harm the city's future prospects especially now - we have major flaws at present in all the aforementioned.

The administration has to rise above the brief and engage disruptive policies. It may sound absurd at first but surely only such radical measures could help the city endure. For instance a day without fossil fuels or specific days when citizens forgo things that limit the collective's future sustenance.

The covid-19 pandemic is one reason for us to ready such measures. That a radical turn in healthcare did not occur but helped the fortunes of vaccine makers is telling.

To transform the way we do things, basic infra must function like clockwork as it does in many Western, Middle Eastern and east Asian cities. We are not yet there but often caught axing the branch as Bengaluru is rendered devoid of an elected council.

India has some of the largest and most populous cities in the world. And they are rapidly expanding. But the often unaccommodating urban infra is proving inadequate, setting us back decades in terms of economic and social progress let alone being ready for incoming challenges of tech and climate.

Often times as soon as a report is published in Bangalore Mirror of collapsing infra it does get fixed sooner or later. But these are instances of plugging leaks. Congruity of civic agencies that keep basic urban infrastructure together and running is missing. It has been so for years now.

This reflects in the haphazardly laid footpaths in the suburbs sinking under your feet, wet and dry waste collection stations that go missing without notice all of a sudden and vast stretches of roads with potholes and in untended lakes and parks.

Stakeholders of a great metropolis such as this cannot scramble in different directions as they please in times of crises. They shall act together as musical keys in harmony for the wheels of the city to turn, and more importantly, to keep the works oiled to meet the necessities and challenges of a dynamic future full of surprises.

Bengaluru isn't facing a resource crunch. The manpower, intelligent minds, money and elected representatives are at hand to turn the metropolis around into a city of the future with robust and sustainable infrastructure - appealing to pedes-



trians and businesses.

All of the above isn't possible sans a city council. A city has to be administered by an elected council — a bare necessity, anywhere in the world. Mayors play a major role as guardians of the city and its citizens relentlessly campaigning for their city.

Ex-mayors have gone on to become leaders of nations such as Boris Johnson in the UK. Some have been toiling for the betterment of cities such as the current mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. London is one of the greatest cities in the world. Administering London is a challenge, but one is managing fewer vehicles, fewer residents and obviously lower emissions and fewer infra requirements in comparison with Bengaluru.

That we have not had a mayor/council for years at the helm of urban affairs must raise eyebrows. Bengaluru is no small city - that there isn't a democratically elected figure but bureaucracy in charge has already raised a barrier between citizens and the administration in lack of grievance redressal at dysfunctional ward committees.

Is that why there isn't robust and sustainable infrastructure that factors in the latest of challenges - the primary factor that will decide the fate of this urban settlement or even perhaps the nation's tech trajectory? Why is the future of Bengaluru seemingly not a priority?

Yes, perhaps the absence of the mayor and council for long has resulted in such disarray with quick fixes taking over a holistic smart approach to manage basic infra such as roads, footpaths, mobility, healthcare, law and order and such in earnest.

As more and more youths arrive and call Bengaluru home, basic urban infrastructure is still caught between apathy and mounting corruption.

How long shall we await complete collapse of urban infra, to start over? Bangalore Mirror had reported recently about the complete absence of footpaths in stretches of Whitefield. The report on missing concrete slabs is only the tip of the story-berg comprising the unending infra woes Bengaluru is facing at present.

On the one hand we see the west rapidly rearranging infra, citizens, and policy makers there realigning their careers and businesses, to ease the fallout of the climate breakdown. On the other we have emerging economies as ours - the world's most populous nation - with absolutely no idea/plan on the urban infra front.

Soil-stabilisation ace right up BDA's alley

Method said to improve life of roads, can be used on stretches with loose soil



Roads laid over loose soil are more prone to developing potholes soon

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) plans on laying roads in NPKL Layout using the soil-stabilisation technique to increase the life of the road. BDA had first adopted the technology in 2022.

Noticing the constant pothole formation on roads, BDA decided to use the soil-stabilisation technology. By using the technology, roads can be laid even in areas with loose soil. The BDA has successfully used the technology while laying a 15-km stretch road from Kadabagere to Kachohalli at the cost of Rs 40 crore.

"Soil stabilisation technology is approved by Indian Road Congress. It's a method to improve soil strength on top of which the asphalt or concrete road is laid. There are different methodologies available such as cement/lime treat-

ment that could increase the strength of the road. This is highly useful in areas with loose soil. Due to the heavy vehicular density and load stress on the road, the roads are impacted by the stress and distress with vehicle passage. This leads to depression along the wheel path. In case, the soil is loose, it could lead to cracks and pothole formations on the asphalted layer," said a senior BDA official.

However, BDA officials say that this method would also be impactful in stretches where the soil is inadequately compact. "Cost reduction with this technology can only be estimated with a lot of variables. If the soil is less compact, the technology can be utilised to increase the life of roads. It also depends on other factors such as vehicular load and the thickness of the asphalt," he added.

The success of the technology could also lead to adoption by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) which is struggling

While it cannot reduce pothole formations, it can increase the life of roads and can cut costs —MN Sreehari, infra expert

with the frequent wear and tear on roads.

Explaining the technology further, infrastructure expert MN Sreehari, told Bangalore Mirror, "Soil Stabilisation technique involves breaking down all the aggregates into powder form and applying a layer on the soil. On top of the layer, another layer of permeable fabric acts as a drainage system. While the system cannot reduce pothole formations, it can increase the life of roads. The method can also reduce the cost by 10-15 percent. After the successful period, the same technology can be adopted by BBMP as well."

Need service road here



Local residents have demanded a 6-km service road on either side of the Somanahalli Toll Plaza connecting Bengaluru and Kanakapura (NH-209/948). They have noted that while the four-lane road work belonging to the highway has begun, the works for the Kaggalipura bypass have not yet started. Further, they have noted that the existing town road

of Kaggalipura has two black spots that can be permanently rectified only when the traffic can move through the Kaggalipura bypass.

Locals have demanded the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to provide a pass or permit to local motorists who use the route multiple times on a daily basis in order to facilitate smooth movement. They have otherwise

demanding the authority build a service road on either side of the Somanahalli Toll Plaza, within a 6km radius, so that daily users can avoid the stipulated toll fee. They have also demanded that once the bypass construction is complete, the existing road from Gandhinagar to Kaggalipura must be developed with drainage systems and footpath facilities before the toll collection begins. They have insisted that NHAI complete all the works - related to both the four-lane ongoing work as well as the bypasses before collection of road toll begins.

Farmers associations and locals have said that if their requests are not taken into consideration and implemented, they will be forced to protest against the authority and initiate legal action. They also noted that the issue had been previously brought up with the project director in October last year.—BMB



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Toolkit for better civic leadership

Group starts training and mentoring programme to shape citizens into skilled advocates for transparent and accountable local governance

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bangalore Political Action Committee's (B.PAC) flagship initiative, the PAC Civic Leadership Incubator Programme (B.CLIP), is poised to empower civic leaders for enhanced city governance. The program involves the selection, training, mentoring, and support of individuals to actively participate in managing their wards. Whether contesting elections, engaging with elected representatives, or contributing as concerned citizens, participants acquire skills in public policy, municipal administration, and election dynamics.

B.PAC aims to build a network of candidates collaborating with civil society organisations to address civic issues, endorsing suitable candidates for elections. B.CLIP provides a platform for passionate citizens to enter public service, advocating for transparency and accountability in the political system.

Raghavendra HS, Programme Head, BPAC-B.CLIP said, "This programme runs yearly once. It is a nine-month programme that includes

The curriculum design and classroom sessions are done by Takshashila Institution in consultation and coordination with B.PAC

—Raghavendra HS,
Programme Head, BPAC-B.CLIP



Citizens attending online sessions at the Civic Leadership Incubator Programme

four months of classroom activities and five months of project phase - During the project phase, they will undertake one civic problem at the ward and solve it systematically. A total of 355 B.CLIPs have been trained from all eight batches from all political parties. (INC, BJP, JD-S, AAP, KRS & others). The training is free of cost. But we take Rs 5,000 as a caution deposit but that is refundable after the programme."

The objective and goal of the B. CLIP project is to provide a platform for passionate citizens to enter political and public service. To create leadership capacity at the municipal level to enable better city governance and to create a cadre of good civic leaders.

Raghavendra said, "The programme is a comprehensive mix of theory, practical and on-field activities intended to provide the participants with an overview of the politi-

cal system, public policy and public administration. The curriculum design and classroom sessions are done by Takshashila Institution in consultation and coordination with B.PAC."

While the year 2014-2015 had 46 leaders who had come forward to training, the numbers kept increasing every year and by 2021-2022 a total of 365 leaders joined for the training programme.

Officials halt construction of illegal layout

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

BDA officials took action and halted work after public complaints about the illegal layout near White Rose Layout surfaced in their office. A few days ago, residents of Whitefield had alleged the emergence of another layout.

Officials from the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) office visited the alleged spot of illegal layout on January 11, 2023. The team visited Pattandur Agrahara Village, Whitefield took note of the construction work and put a temporary halt to it.

"We visited the site following a public complaint about the allegations of an illegal layout. We saw



BM's report on January 4 about complaints against illegal layouts in Whitefield

earth movers were in progress and put a halt to work. We have asked them to submit their actions to the

BDA office or stop work. The report along with photographs will be shared with the BDA Commissioner and a decision will be taken," said a senior BDA official.

Whitefield Ward Committee which took cognisance of the new formation, wrote a letter to BDA officials requesting them to take action.

As per the complaint filed, "Some developers are scheming to launch an illegal layout, with access through White Rose Layout. It's come to our notice that earthwork, felling of trees, and underground drainage (UGD) pipe laying, with the intention of layout formation has begun in the above-mentioned property and has been going on for the last few months. We hear allegations that an illegal layout without BDA approval is being formed and individual sites in this proposed layout

are being marketed. Its developer. We request you to verify if the developer has obtained BDA approval for the layout and if not, we request you to prevent the formation of the said illegal layout."

The residents informed the Tahsildar of Bengaluru East Taluk, Ravi Y on December 22, 2023. Following this, the Revenue Inspector investigated the matter and the formation was suspended. On January 10, the Tahsildar informed the residents that the land was converted and it does not fall under their purview.

The alleged illegal layout has come up near Rose White Layout where BBMP launched enforcement action against 72 unauthorised buildings. Residents had also written to the Revenue minister highlighting the formation of the illegal layout.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Trash ground
Kanakapura



The stretch along Kanakapura Road, perpetually neglected is now transformed into a dumping ground for trash and urgently requires cleaning and proper waste management.

Filth fix
Gandhinagar



The filthy conservancy alley in Gandhinagar demands the attention of BBMP officials for an improved cleanliness system.

Footpath encroached
Nandini Layout



Vendors on the footpath for their livelihood are understandable, but near Jai Maruti Nagar Circle, a building has encroached onto the footpath, with authorities seemingly turning a blind eye.

Forest dept gets into fire fighting mode with drones

As forest fire season approaches, KFD enhances preparedness with 10 drones, cites dry weather as potential catalyst for increased incidents

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) will soon be adding ten drones to its aerial firefighting fleet to deal with forest fire events in the upcoming fire season. According to KFD officials, the proposal to procure ten drones has already been approved by the Centre, and the department is securing these aerial robotic devices with the help of the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Agency (KSRSA).

The department currently has three drones to manage forest fire incidents in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Canara circles.

"This year, we have plans to procure ten drones under the centrally sponsored scheme for the prevention and management of forest fires. Keeping in mind the recent DGCA guidelines on drones, we are procuring them through KSRSA. We submitted the proposal at the beginning of this financial year, and it has been approved. We have received the first release of funds from the Centre and are waiting for the rest of the amount," said a senior official from the Forest Resource Management wing of KFD.

Speculating higher forest fire incidents this season, KFD is also planning to add a Cessna aircraft to douse critical fire cases that emerge in inac-



File photo of a fire raging at the Nagarahole Forest

Keeping in mind the recent DGCA guidelines on drones, we are procuring them through KSRSA

—senior official, Forest Resource Management wing, KFD

cessible areas.

"We had good rainfall over the last few years, except last year. When it rains well, lantana grows profusely. We currently have the best growth of lantana, along with dry weather. Put together, conditions are apt for a higher number and intensity of forest fire incidents. However, the department is alert and on its toes. Thus, through the CSR fund, we are contemplating using an aircraft to douse fire as well," said Brijesh

Kumar Dikshit, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, KFD.

KFD officials, however, also highlighted that recent rain spells might bring down the number of fire incidents.

Fire lines based on a fire resonance map are being created, fire watchers are being deployed, and awareness activities for communities living in and around the forest areas are also being taken up. The depart-

ment is also keeping a close watch on the vulnerability index of various forest patches provided by the Forest Survey of India.

Officials also highlight that the majority of the fire incidents in the state are either caused by miscreants or due to negligence.

"We are keeping a close eye on the vulnerability index of certain forest patches, especially those with a history of critical fire incidents such as Mysuru and Chamarajanagar. However, since most of the fire incidents are anthropogenic, we would like to appeal to people to not kindle fire even accidentally. We are sensitising locals about this aspect," said the official.

Govt finally unveils 5th guarantee

On Friday, the Karnataka government introduced the fifth 'guarantee' of the Congress party, unveiling the 'Yuva Nidhi' scheme. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented cheques to six beneficiaries to symbolically initiate the program, which provides a monthly unemployment stipend of Rs 3,000 to graduates and Rs 1,500 to diploma holders. The scheme targets individuals who completed their education in the academic year 2022-23 but remained unemployed for 180 days post-education.

The stipend, lasting for two years, will cease once the beneficiary secures employment. Those pursuing higher education are ineligible for the scheme. The state government has allocated Rs 250 crore for the current fiscal year, anticipating an annual expenditure of Rs 1,200 crore next year and Rs 1,500 crore annually from 2026.

Addressing the public in Shivamogga, the CM acknowledged the rising unemployment rate in the country, emphasising the necessity of the 'Yuva Nidhi' scheme. He highlighted that the unemployment rate had surged from 5.5 per cent in 2014-15 to 10.5 per cent. The Chief Minister underscored the importance of such schemes in ensuring a future for the youth.

Siddaramaiah also outlined four other guarantees - 'Shakti', 'Anna Bhagya', 'Gruha Lakshmi', and 'Gruha Jyoti'. These guarantees, inspired by the universal basic income principle, aim to provide relief to 1.5 crore families in Karnataka, offering benefits ranging from free bus rides for women to free electricity and monthly financial aid to eligible households.

Speaking to reporters at the Shivamogga airport, Siddaramaiah stressed that skill development training would be provided to scheme beneficiaries.

BM Property

Consumer Connect Initiative

North B'luru set for economic takeoff with Aerospace Park

North Bengaluru will see further growth as the State Government plans to ramp up infrastructure around Aerospace Park. Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil said that Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board's Aerospace and Defence park located near the Kempegowda International Airport will see big growth as steps are taken to ensure quality approach roads to the venue. Priority would be given to set up quality schools, hotels and better lodging facilities in the surrounding areas.

Patil said, "Measures were being taken to put the aerospace and defence sector on a profit track, it is necessary to extend the push for the indigenisation of Maintenance, Repairs and Overhaul (MRO) processes. Our department would coordinate with the Labour Department

to facilitate better dormitories for Diploma and ITI professionals working for Aerospace and defence companies. The opportunities in the sector are expected to increase massively as there will be an inclusion of around 1,000 civilian flights in the next 10-15 years."

Meanwhile, realtors say that the emergence of an Aerospace Park near Devanahalli is poised to be a transformative force for realty development in the burgeoning region of Bengaluru North.

"This strategic move follows the notable shift of the airport from HAL to Devanahalli, which has already proven to be a catalyst for significant growth in the area. The upcoming Aerospace Park is anticipated to amplify this momentum by generating new employment opportunities and fostering a meticulously planned



expansion of real estate. The relocation of the airport to Devanahalli marked a pivotal moment in the development trajectory of Bengaluru North. With improved connectivity and infrastructure, the region experienced a surge in economic activi-

ties and real estate demand. The Aerospace Park, nestled in proximity to the airport, is set to play a pivotal role in further propelling the area into a hub of innovation and technological advancement," said V Devendrapa, a realtor.

One of the key drivers for realty development is the job creation potential that Aerospace Park brings to the table. "The aerospace and aviation industry is known for its highly skilled workforce requirements, ranging from engineers and technicians to administrative professionals. As the park becomes operational, it is poised to attract a pool of talent, thereby increasing the demand for residential and commercial spaces in the vicinity. This influx of professionals will not only fuel the housing market but also stimulate the growth of supporting amenities and services. Moreover, the Aerospace Park is a testament to Bengaluru's commitment to fostering innovation and research in cutting-edge technologies," said Damodar Raju, another realtor.

—Prakash VL

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

SATISFACTORY DAY

A brahmyny kite resting after relishing its prey at Sarakki Lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**



If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

Short route, long delays

Residents of Balagere point out worsened road infrastructure and traffic management in area

The chronic issue of traffic congestion in the Balagere locality continues to test the patience of residents. With the average time taken to cross a 1-kilometre stretch coming around 1 to 1.5 hours, locals have been facing severe inconvenience in pursuing their regular lives. On January 8, this issue worsened as it took people 2 hours to cover the same stretch. Frustrated residents took to social media to express their dissatisfaction with the road infrastructure and traffic management measures.

Shwetha, a resident of the area, said, "Despite changes in the parties at the state level and multiple requests made to the authorities at the Bruhat Bengaluru Ma-

hanagara Palike (BBMP), no effort has been made to make the situation better. Despite lack of infrastructure and poor traffic management measures, approvals for housing projects (approximately 20,000 flats in the

“Despite changes in parties at the state level, no effort has been made to make the situation better

—Shwetha

span of 2 kilometre) and international schools have been given with blatant disregard to all the concerns we have been raising over the years.”

Complaints have been

registered multiple times, from students raising concerns about reaching school late, skipping meals due to traffic, and office goers missing early hours of work. There has been no proper response to these issues from the authorities.

Shwetha added, “We as residents have circulated pictures of the issues we have been facing, from potholes to traffic congestion in the local ward group, which has important figures like the BBMP Assistant Engineer, the MLA from the area, the BJP local president, and other leaders of authority, but we haven’t received any response about it.”

Another resident, Guru Komal, said, “Long back in 2019, when there was a meetup with the local leaders about the same issue, the complaints raised were the same, and yet, till now, the situation remains the same. It might be helpful to call these leaders for another press meeting so they could be held accountable for their inaction on our issues.”

With the residents’ frustration towards authorities increasing with these day-to-day unresolved problems, more accountability and responsibility and an adequate response and action to these grievances from the government and BBMP end are expected.

— Anurati Nair



It takes 1 to 1.5 hours for residents to cross a 1-kilometre stretch in Balagere

DID YOU KNOW?



Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple is one of the most popular temples known for its Indian rock-cut architecture in Bengaluru. It is believed that the temple was built in the Vedic period and was later innovated by Kempe Gowda in the 16th century. The temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. It is built in a natural cave, and its courtyard contains many other sculptures. It has four monolithic pillars, two of which represent Trishul and Damru. The temple sees a huge crowd on the occasions of Maha Shivratri and Makar Sankranti.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
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Let’s see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it’s credible, we’ll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAP THE CHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

How do you find the food culture of Bengaluru? How is it different from other places?



Suhani Goel, BM Reader

In Bengaluru, the culinary landscape is a delightful spectrum, ranging from South Indian to North Indian, with numerous cloud kitchens offering diverse cuisines. The accessibility of a variety caters to the city’s diverse population.



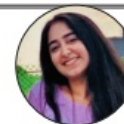
Poorva, BM Reader

Bengaluru’s local food scene has undergone a notable transformation, mirroring the city’s diverse population. Beyond the traditional fare, the gastronomic landscape has expanded to include global cuisines.



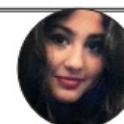
Kanishk Rathore, BM Reader

I believe Bengaluru has something for everyone when it comes to food. The city offers the best of both worlds—I can savour the delectable local cuisine and, at the same time, explore a plethora of international flavours.



Maheep, BM Reader

During one of my visits to a restaurant in Bengaluru, I encountered a fascinating culinary experience—fusion dishes that seamlessly blended local flavours with East Asian influences.



Parneet Kaur, BM Reader

Bengaluru stands out as a remarkably convenient place to live, especially when it comes to dining. The abundance of food delivery apps ensures that residents can easily order a wide array of cuisines.



Himanshi, BM Reader

Although I haven’t been a resident for an extended period, I am genuinely pleased with the diverse culinary offerings. The availability of culinary delights has undoubtedly left a positive impression on my experience living here.

SPEAK TO US

What role do traditional arts and crafts play in Bengaluru’s modern society?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with ‘Tap The Chatter’ in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247



Head hair comes in many colours, shapes and sizes, and hairstyles are often an expression of personal style or cultural identity.

Many different genes determine our hair texture, thickness and colour. But some people's hair changes around the time of puberty, pregnancy or after chemotherapy.

So, what can cause hair to become curlier, thicker, thinner or grey?

Curly or straight? How hair follicle shape plays a role

Hair is made of keratin, a strong and insoluble protein. Each hair strand grows from its own hair follicle that extends deep into the skin.

Curly hair forms due to asymmetry of both the hair follicle and the keratin in the hair.

Follicles that produce curly hair are asymmetrical and curved and lie at an angle to the surface of the skin. This kinks the hair as it first grows.

The asymmetry of the hair follicle also causes the keratin to bunch up on one side of the hair strand. This pulls parts of the hair strand closer together into a curl, which maintains the curl as the hair continues to grow.

Follicles that are symmetrical, round and perpendicular to the skin surface produce straight hair.

Life changes, hair changes

Our hair undergoes repeated cycles throughout life, with different stages of growth and loss.

Each hair follicle contains stem cells, which multiply and grow into a hair strand.

Head hairs spend most of their time in the growth phase, which can last for several years. This is why head hair can grow so long.

Let's look at the life of a single hair strand. After the growth phase is a transitional phase of about two weeks, where the hair strand stops growing. This is followed by a resting phase where the hair remains in the follicle for a few months before it naturally falls out.

The hair follicle remains in the skin and the stem cells grow a new hair to repeat the cycle.

Each hair on the scalp is re-

STRAIGHT TO CURLY, THICK TO THIN

Here's how hormones and chemotherapy can change your hair



placed every three to five years.

Hormone changes during and after pregnancy alter the usual hair cycle. Many women notice their hair is thicker during pregnancy.

During pregnancy, high levels of oestrogen, progesterone and prolactin prolong the resting phase of the hair cycle. This means the hair stays in the hair follicle for longer, with less hair loss.

A drop in hormones a few months after delivery causes increased hair loss. This is due to all the hairs that remained in the resting phase during pregnancy falling out in a fairly synchronised way.

Hair can change around puberty, pregnancy or after chemotherapy.

This is related to the genetics of hair shape, which is an example of

incomplete dominance.

Incomplete dominance is when there is a middle version of a trait. For hair, we have curly hair and straight hair genes. But when someone has one curly hair gene and one straight hair gene, they can have wavy hair.

Hormonal changes that occur around puberty and pregnancy can affect the function of genes. This can cause the curly hair gene of someone with wavy hair to become more active. This can change their hair from wavy to curly.

Researchers have identified that activating specific genes can change hair in pigs from straight to curly.

Chemotherapy has very visible effects on hair. Chemotherapy kills rapidly dividing cells, including hair follicles, which causes hair loss. Chemotherapy can also have genetic effects that influence hair follicle shape. This can cause hair to regrow with a different shape for the first few cycles of hair regrowth.

Hormonal changes as we age also affect our hair

Throughout life, thyroid hormones are essential for production of keratin. Low levels of thyroid hormones can cause dry and brittle hair.

Oestrogen and androgens also regulate hair growth and loss, particularly as we age.

Balding in males is due to higher levels of androgens. In particular, high dihydrotestosterone (sometimes shortened to DHT), which is produced in the body from testosterone, has a role in male pattern baldness.

Some women experience female pattern hair loss. This is caused by a combination of genetic factors plus lower levels of oestrogen and higher androgens after menopause. The hair follicles become smaller and smaller until they no longer produce hairs.

Reduced function of the cells that produce melanin (the pigment that gives our hair colour) is what causes greying.

(The Conversation, By Theresa Larkin, University of Wollongong)

MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Choosing books for kids

Know Your Child's Reading Level And Age

Take your child's age and reading level into account while selecting a book. Choose books that are appropriate for your child's present developmental stage. For toddlers go for wordless books. 5-6 years old kids who are reading independently, pick a book with simple words and easy plots that uses terms that they are likely to be familiar with from everyday use. If your kid is 8-9 years old then pick a novel or factual book about a topic they are interested in.

Read Recommendations

Reading reviews and asking friends, teachers, and librarians for recommendations can give you insightful information about a book's quality and applicability. Reviews from other parents who can provide advice on whether a book is suitable for your child's age and interests are frequently featured on parenting forums, book blogs, and online stores.

Consider Themes

Consider the themes and subjects that your kids could find interesting. Choosing books based on their hobbies, whether it be fantasy, adventure, friendship, or animals, can make reading more pleasurable.

Picture Walk

Picture walk is the act of flipping through books and taking in the illustrations. The youngster will be able to visualise the text if the pictures are simple to catch, illustrated, tell the tale, and are included frequently throughout the book.

Consider Authors

If your child likes a certain book or author, encourage them to read other titles from the same series or from the same author. Your youngster may find it simpler to connect with new books if they are familiar with the writing style of the author.

-Kalyavizhi Arivalan, Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Reduced 'blood lead levels' linked with cardiovascular health improvements: Study

Researchers have discovered that small declines in "blood lead levels" were associated with long-term cardiovascular health improvements in American Indian adults, a new study has said.

In the study published in the journal of the American Heart Association, the participants who had the greatest reductions in blood lead levels saw their "systolic blood pressure" fall by about 7 mm Hg -- an amount comparable to the effects of blood pressure-lowering medication.

"We saw that even small decreases in a person's blood lead levels can have meaningful health outcomes," said senior author Anne E. Nigra, PhD, assistant pro-

fessor at Columbia Mailman School of Public Health.

In addition to seeing improvements in systolic blood pressure, the researchers found that reductions in blood lead levels were associated with reductions in a marker linked with 'hypertrophic cardiomyopathy' and 'heart failure'.

At the start of the study, participants' average blood lead level was 2.04 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. Throughout the study, the average blood lead level dropped by 0.67 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, or 33 per cent.

The most significant changes, categorised by participants with average starting blood lead levels of 3.21 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and who experienced



reductions of about 1.78 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, or 55 per cent, were linked to a 7 mm Hg reduction in systolic blood pressure, the study noted.

"This is a sign that whatever

is happening in these communities to reduce blood lead levels is working," said Mona Puggal, MPH, an epidemiologist at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

"The reductions in blood pressure are also comparable to improvements you would see with lifestyle changes, such as getting 30 minutes of daily exercise, reducing salt intake, or losing weight," she added.

The researchers emphasised that it is also important to investigate these findings in other communities and to look for additional ways to reduce lead exposure, especially in other populations with elevated risks for exposure and cardiovascular disease.

— IANS

TESTY TECHNIQUE

Here are 'Worst in Show' CES products, according to consumer and privacy advocates

The best CES products pierce through the haze of marketing hype at the Las Vegas gadget show to reveal innovations that could improve lives.

The worst could harm us or our society and the planet in such "innovatively bad" ways that a panel of self-described dystopia experts has judged them "Worst in Show." The third annual contest that no tech company wants to win announced its decisions Thursday.

"From easily hackable lawn mowers to \$300 earbuds that will fail in two years, these are products that jeopardise our safety, encourage overconsumption, and normalise privacy violations," says the group of consumer and privacy advocates judging the awards. The contest has no affiliation with CES or the group that runs the expo.

They made the choices based on how uniquely bad a product is, what impact it could have if widely adopted and if it was significantly worse than previous versions of similar technology. The judges represent groups including Consumer Reports, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and right-to-repair advocates iFixit.

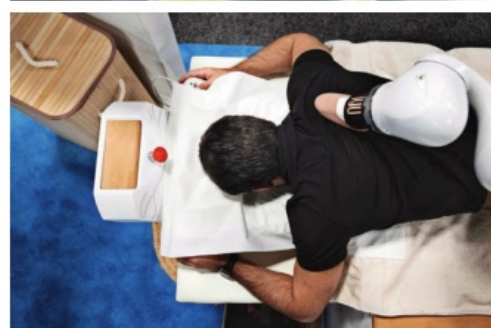
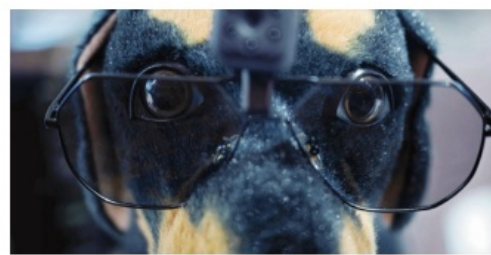
Automotive technology is annually a big focus at CES. And two brickbats were awarded to carmaker BMW, one of those involving a partnership with Amazon's voice assistant Alexa. Powered by a large language model — the type of AI system behind chatbots like ChatGPT — Amazon says an Alexa "car expert" will be able to provide "quick instructions and answers about vehicle functions in a more human, conversation-like manner, and even act on your behalf."

Being able to ask Alexa to unlock

The environmental impact "Worst in Show" went to one of many internet-connected food tech appliances showcased at CES 2024



Some unique exhibits at CES 2024



judge's comment from Cindy Cohn, executive director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

She added: "Alexa and BMW — and frankly all of the car companies who are racing to turn our cars into tracking devices — need to ensure that victims can turn this off."

Customer first

BMW Group spokesperson Jay Hanson said the company designed and delivered the voice assistant with privacy in mind and customers have the choice of whether they want to use it. "BMW and Amazon share a strong commitment to maintaining customers' trust and protecting their privacy, including giving them control over their data," he said in an email Thursday.

BMW is also showcasing augmented-reality glasses designed by Xreal that are supposed to overlay helpful information and virtual objects that you'll see ahead of you as you're driving. Another judge called it a "recipe for distracted driving" that also could pave the way for a future of vision-obscuring ads.

Hanson said the augmented reality experience demonstrated at CES was a showcase of "potential use cases" that could aid or entertain people but that minimising driver distraction remains a key principle in what BMW rolls out to customers.

German audio electronics-maker

Sennheiser showcased the fourth generation of its Momentum True Wireless ear headphones, which are usually known to last for a while.

But iFixit CEO Kyle Wiens says the latest \$300 earbuds are a "betrayal of the brand" because they're too disposable, with three separate batteries that will likely fail after a few years and can't easily be replaced. "Start by selling batteries and releasing repair instructions," he wrote. "Then work on making the battery easier to swap."

Sennheiser didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Nathan Proctor, the national campaign director for US PIRG, a consumer advocacy group, selected as his "Worst in Show" the new video ads on Instacart's "AI-powered" shopping cart.

General Mills, Del Monte Foods and Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream are among the companies that will advertise on the carts during an upcoming pilot at West Coast stores owned by Good Food Holdings.

Equipped with cameras and sensors, the cart has a screen that will share real-time recommendations based on what customers put in the cart, like advertising ice cream if a customer buys cones.

"It uses historic shopping behavior to push junk foods you've bought before," Proctor wrote. "Grocery stores are overwhelming and navigating promotions is

exhausting, and I question the sanity of whoever thought we should make it worse." Instacart didn't respond to a request for comment.

Intrusive robot?

The cybersecurity "Worst in Show" went to China-based robot vacuum-maker Ecovacs. Robotic vacuums are nothing new, but Paul Roberts of Secure Repairs says the new X2 Combo combines all the elements for intrusive home surveillance — cameras, microphones, LiDAR, voice recognition and computer vision that can recognize objects — without any guarantee that its unencrypted images or video feed can't be hacked.

The environmental impact "Worst in Show" went to one of many internet-connected food tech appliances showcased at CES 2024. Revolution Cooking's \$1,800 "macrowave" combines a microwave with a convection oven but such trendy gadgets are typically short-lived and encourage people to trash the simpler appliances they already have, according to Shanika Whitehurst of Consumer Reports.

"Adding electronics to perfectly functional appliances dramatically increases their environmental impact, requiring vast amounts of resources and energy," she wrote.

Revolution Cooking and Ecovacs didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. **AP**

Not the year of the AI gadget

Generative AI fever was expected to sweep through tech land and dominate CES, the year's premiere consumer electronics trade show in Las Vegas this week.

Expect to wait another year, industry observers said.

One company aimed to use AI to disrupt the red-hot meat-grilling industry. Another aspired to play with your pet. A prototype boxing glove that uses machine learning to turn people into better fighters also made its debut. Few of these gadgets captured the wild energy that generative AI did in the 2023 hype cycle.

Just a year after ChatGPT's launch in 2022, companies did not have enough time to translate the excitement of large language models into gadget form.

"We're still trying to get it all to work," said Jay Goldberg, chief executive of D2D Advisory. "You need the silicon and the software, and it's only been a year since ChatGPT launched — people are still getting on board."

The lackluster showing was an inauspicious beginning to a year when investors are expected to look for signs of financial returns from the billions of dollars of investments committed to the heavily hyped generative AI sector.

But profits are not assured, especially in the nascent device sector. On the first day of the trade show, AI gadget startup Humane announced it laid off 10 employees, ahead of the March launch date of its \$699 AI-powered gadget intended to replace the smartphone, citing the need to restructure.

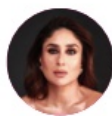
One sector that leaned into the frenzy was the automobile industry. Volkswagen presented vehicles with a voice assistant that integrates ChatGPT's technology, that is supposed to let drivers listen to research content on the road. But ChatGPT has a propensity to "hallucinate" erroneous information, and was why Mercedes-Benz launched a virtual assistant that checks some of its answers against data from Google in order to be more accurate.

China-based Mojie demonstrated augmented reality glasses made with plastic lenses that connect to a smartphone. The glasses included an option that lets the user push a button on the frames to activate ChatGPT and display responses to queries in their field of view.

AI startup Rabbit launched a stand-alone gadget called the R1 that is similar to the voice assistants produced by Amazon, Google and Alphabet's Google. The device uses what the company describes as a "large action model" to control apps. It sold 10,000 units in a day.

Next year's CES is likely to contain many more gadgets and products that include forms of generative AI after companies have enough time to develop the appropriate hardware and software, according to Accenture analyst Syed Alam.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we see handheld devices that are doing generative AI, and maybe even offline," Alam said. **Reuters**



No validation required — Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan recently opened up about her stance on social media in an interview. Bebo said that she doesn't seek validation from social media but she's happy to get a lot of love from her ardent fans



Dua's date

Dua Lipa is dating British actor Callum Turner, Page Six reported. The singer and the actor were spotted dancing at an afterparty in Los Angeles for the premiere of his show 'Masters of the Air' on Wednesday night, sparking speculation that they are dating.

A source told Page Six that they are indeed dating. "It's new, but they're mad about each other," the insider said.

"She was at the premiere to support him," the source said. The "Dance the Night" singer appears to have no additional ties to the limited series. Turner is now appearing in George Clooney's most recent film, 'The Boys in the Boat,' in addition to the highly anticipated military series produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. He previously appeared in two seasons of the 'Fantastic Beasts' series.

From 2016 to 2017, he dated Vanessa Kirby, who played Princess Margaret in 'The Crown.'

At the time of their split, sources told the Sun newspaper in the UK, "Vanessa and Callum are both rising stars, and in the last few years they have been flooded with offers. But as their careers have taken off, their relationship has suffered..." Lipa dated Gigi and Bella Hadid's brother, Anwar, from 2019 until 2021.

—ANI

Ayushmann as Sourav Ganguly

Producers Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg, from Luv Films, have made a significant move by pairing Ayushmann Khurrana with director Vikramaditya Motwane for the Sourav Ganguly biopic.

This collaboration brings together two accomplished talents with impressive bodies of work, promising an exciting project in the making.

Ayushmann Khurrana, known for his left-handed batting style reminiscent of Sourav Ganguly, is considered a perfect fit for the biopic. Teaming up with director Vikramaditya Motwane, renowned for his work in films like 'Udaan' and 'Lootera', the collaboration is generating



excitement. Industry insiders are eagerly anticipating the official announcement, expecting a cinematic masterpiece from this talented duo. Ayushmann Khurrana has been under discussion for this film since last year and has been the producer's top choice from the start. The formalities have recently been completed, and he has officially signed on for the project. Ayushmann is set to commence his preparations for the role, including months of rigorous cricket training, before the shooting begins.

—ETimes



Back to work

Kalki explains how she explained to her daughter that she has to get to work

Kalki Koechlin is amazed at how kids today learn everything so quickly. Talking about her daughter, Sappho, who turns four next month and speaks four languages, she says, "Sappho speaks Hebrew, Hindi, French and English, while I have been struggling to learn Hebrew. My daughter speaks four languages, and I'm so jealous of her because here I am struggling to learn Hebrew through online lessons, but it comes naturally to her."

Kalki's partner, Guy Hershberg, is an Israeli musician and that's where her enthusiasm to learn Hebrew comes from. The actress shares that while she was excited about going back to work, the process wasn't easy.

"Goldfish was the first film I did after becoming a mother, and the night before we began shooting my daughter just refused to leave me. I sat her down like an adult and told her that I really wanted to do this film because I hadn't worked in two years. I also promised her that I would be with her every morning and night to spend time with her. Two minutes after the conversation, she fell asleep, and the next morning, she woke up and said, 'Where's nanny? I want to be with her.' I was surprised and realised that kids feel more involved if you tell them the truth rather than giving them other reasons."

Meanwhile, Kalki Koechlin was last seen in 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan.'

—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

Visual treat



Director Prashanth Varma has chosen the best timing to release this movie. Varma, who handled the megaphone for Telugu movies Awe and Zombie Reddy, has succeeded in aptly mixing mythology with social elements such as exploitation of the poor by the greedy and underdeveloped villages and the lifestyle of people in such villages. Computer-generated images are a visual treat for family as well as mass audiences, especially children.

HANUMAN

3.5
RATING



- **DIRECTOR** Prashanth Varma
- **ACTORS** Teja Sajja, Amrita Aiyer, Varalakshmi Sharathkumar, Vinay Rai, Raj Deepak Shetty, Vennela Kishore, Getup Srinu, Rohini
- **Duration** 158 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

The movie opens with Michael, a misguided child suffering from digital addiction, getting injured while trying to imitate Superman. His parents advise him to do good things and not to watch cartoons that highlight superpowers of Superman but he kills them by setting their house afire.

At this juncture, the scene shifts to Anjanadri, a backward village, where Hanumanthu (Teja Sajja), a petty thief, and his elder sister Anjanamma (Varalakshmi Sharathkumar) and Kashi (Getup Srinu), who owns a dairy, live. Hanumanthu falls in love with Meenakshi (Amrita Aiyer), a doctor and the daughter of a school master. Gajapati (Raj Deepak Shetty), a leader of Anjanadri, exploits its people under the pretext of protecting them from dacoits. Meenakshi opposes Gajapati. Gajapati asks his henchmen to teach Meenakshi a lesson. While saving Meenakshi, Hanumanthu gets injured seriously and falls into a river. He gets a precious stone in the river. The precious stone gives him a

superpower. He teaches a lesson to Gajapati and his henchmen. Meanwhile, Michael (Vinay Rai) arrives at Anjanadri to grab the precious stone from Hanumanthu. What happens to Hanumanthu and Michael is what the movie is all about.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Teja Sajja has made all efforts to showcase his acting skills. He is convincing as a petty thief, romantic lover, and affectionate brother. Amrita Aiyer looks beautiful. Varalakshmi Sharathkumar provides good support. Her performance in an action scene where she beats goons with tender coconuts is good. Vinay Rai, Raj Deepak Shetty, Getup Srinu, Vennela Kishore, Rohini provide good support.

The drawback of the movie is its run time. Had the director reduced the duration of the movie by 15 to 20 minutes, the movie would have been a good entertainer.

It is worth a watch if you want a mix of devotion and evil elements.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Why lake link fence allocation is meagre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

worth around Rs 4 crore were already approved. These works will begin shortly. There is a plan to take up developmental works worth Rs 9 crore in the near future. BBMP's lakes department is preparing the plan to utilise funds.

"We are planning to take up developmental works worth Rs 30 crore to Rs 40 crore in the next three to four years. The lake has one of the towers built by Kempe Gowda," said Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad.

When informed about the pathetic condition of the outlet of Halasuru Lake towards Gurudwara, the MLA said that he has already held a meeting with the BBMP special commissioner (lakes) to discuss the development of Halasuru Lake. "I told the BBMP authorities to fix the problem without any delay," the MLA said.

The open entry point near the outlet has become an eyesore for

the motorists who proceed towards Bhaskaran Road from MG Road or Gangadhar Chetty Road.

A small stretch of the road near the open entrance of the lake has caved in, posing danger to unwary two-wheeler riders. The open entrance has become a destination for dumping all sorts of garbage and construction and demolition material.

"The BBMP must utilise the funds to fill up gaps and replace damaged link fences. I want the BBMP authorities to build a fence at Halasuru Lake on par with Sankey Tank," said Purushotham V, a resident of Annaswamy Mudaliar Road.

Bharathinagar Residents' Forum president NS Ravi demanded BBMP authorities provide amenities at Halasuru Lake on the lines of the infrastructure provided at Sankey Tank. He said the BBMP authorities are neglecting public amenities in Bengaluru East.

"The BBMP authorities always give importance to Sankey Tank because many government officials and ministers visit Sankey Tank for walks. BBMP authorities must provide amenities at Halasuru Lake for the benefit of hundreds of people who visit the lake every day," said Ravi.

The BBMP's executive engineer (lakes department) said developmental works worth Rs 3.10 crore were already sanctioned for Halasuru Lake.

"The strengthening of the outlet on the Gurudwara side will be taken up soon. We want to utilise Rs 70 lakh to replace damaged fences," said the BBMP executive engineer.

Meanwhile, the BBMP floated a tender inviting bidders to fence lakes in Mahadevapura Zone at an estimated cost of Rs 2.50 crore. The BBMP has allocated Rs 1 crore for fencing of Hosakerehalli Lake, Rs 1.50 crore for Kannalli Lake, Rs 2 crore for Konasandra Lake.

Course in zoo-keeping

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has around 80 zookeepers, they are not trained in zoo-keeping; an important criterion to meet the physical and psychological needs of the animals.

"Behavioural enrichment of animals in zoo care is an important aspect of modern zoo-keeping. However, zookeepers are rarely trained professionals and not well versed in the concept of animal welfare. It is our duty to ensure individual animal's well-being in our care. Zookeepers play an important role as they are the ones handling animals on a day-to-day basis," added Sen.

BBP has already started informal training of its zookeepers through a non-financial and academic MoU signed with an animal care and management centre located in Jakkur. Under the MoU, BBP will be sending its zookeepers to Life Science Educational Trust (LSET) to learn about animal care and management.

"We recently trained a team of zookeepers from BBP in aviary management. The idea behind the trust is to provide a better understanding of animal biology,

behaviour, and psychology. We will also be training BBP zookeepers in animal handling, restraint, and safety protocols. The keepers will also get to learn to recognise, diagnose, and treat common animal health issues, said Meera Deobhakta, LSET team member.

Experts underlined that the traditional concept of zoos has changed over time and with increased focus on animal welfare, zoos and bringing in state-of-the-art facilities and expensive natural habitats, including enclosure enrichments. A well-trained zookeeper, capable of not only feeding the animals but also ensuring their physical and psychological well-being is the need of the hour.

"There is a need to train young people in animal care. There are many zoos in India and they all need trained hands to work as zookeepers. Currently, people do not look at it as a career option. But looking at increasing importance being given to animal welfare in recent times, anyone working with animals must be formally trained in handling them," added Deobhakta.

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personal

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I Nasreen Taj W/O, Mohammed Hafeez Ur Rahman R/o No 2 Krishnappa Layout Pillaganahalli Gottigere Bangalore 560083 have changed my name to Nasrin Taj.

I Gururaj Mohan Bellary, S/o. Mohanrao Krishnarao Bellary, R/a No. 10, 1st Floor, Belmar Layout, Behind Siddaganga School, Rukmini Nagar, Nagasandra, B'tore North- 73. I have changed my name from Gururaj Mohanrao Bellary to GURURAJ MOHAN BELLARY Vide affidavit date: 11.01.2024. Sworn bfr ntry: C. Srinivas.

I Muniruddin Ahmed Sayed R/o Door No.303, No.7/42, 7th Cross, Vgs Lyt, Ejipura, Viveknagar, Bengaluru 560047 Have Changed My Name To SAYED MUNIRUDDIN, Affidavit Dt.12/01/2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Arshiya Tabassum R/o No.930, 3rd floor, 1st main, AECS Lyt, Singasandra, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my minor son name from Adyan Naveed Sharieff to Adyan Sharieff, Affidavit Dt.12/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Keerthi Ambaldhage W/O. Ippagunta Raghavendra Srikanth R/o No 25 Jyothi Nagar 3rd Cross Near Sambharan College M S Palya Vidyanarayana Bangalore Karnataka 560097 have changed my name to Keerthi Ampar .

I Vidhya Reddy W/o Balavardhan Krishna Reddy R/o #45,Krishna Reddy Colony Domlur Layout,B'luru 560071 have changed my name to Vidya Vardhan for all purposes

I Syed Abdul Khadar S/o Syed Ibrahim R/o 250, 4th stage, WOC road, Industrial town, Rajajinagar, B'luru 560010 have changed my name to Syed Abdul Khadar Syed Ibrahim, affidavit Dt.12/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Saibannavar Sharanabasappa Mahantappa, R/o # 202 Sohan Fortune Apts, tippasandra, Halasahalli Road, Varthur, Bangalore-560087, Have Changed My Name To Sharanabasappa Saibannavar.

I Alresh Melani D'souza W/O, Jeevan Jeethan Menezes R/o Flat No 103, Elegant Iris Apartment, Sunderamurthy Road, Cox Town Bangalore -05 have changed my name to Alresh Melani Menezes.

I Nandini Kumari W/o Rahul Kumar Jha R/at 223/4, 5th Cross, 12th Main, Nisarga Layout, Srirampura, Post Jakkur, Bangalore 560064 have changed name as Nandini Jha vide affidavit dtd 12/01/2024.

I Manjula Irayya Kadadevar W/O, Irayya Kadadevar R/o T2-701, 7th Floor, Purva Skydale Apartment, Silver County Road, Opposite Haralur Lake, Lake Lakedew Residency, Phase 3rd, Kudlu, Bengaluru-560068 have changed my name to Manjula Kadadevar .

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Covid JN.1 cases crosses 1,000-mark in country

Karnataka reports 214 cases, highest number among 16 states, UTs

The number of cases of covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 has crossed the 1,000 mark with Uttar Pradesh becoming the latest entrant to the list of states and Union territories that have detected its presence so far, according to INSACOG. Data compiled by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) showed that Karnataka has reported the highest number of 214 cases among the 16 states and UTs, followed by Andhra Pradesh (189), Maharashtra (170), Kerala (154), Goa (90), Tamil Nadu (88) and Gujarat (76).

Telangana and Rajasthan have recorded 32 JN.1 cases each, Chhattisgarh has recorded 25, Delhi 16, Uttar Pradesh seven, Haryana five, Odisha three, West Bengal two and Uttarakhand one. A total of 1,104 cases of JN.1 have been detected till now across the 16 states and UTs.

The Centre has asked the states and Union territories to maintain a constant vigil amid an uptick in the number of Covid cases and the detection of the JN.1 sub-variant in the country. The states have been urged to ensure effective compliance with the detailed operational guidelines for the revised surveillance strategy for COVID-19 shared with them by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The states have also been asked to regularly monitor and report district-wise cases of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and



Students in Mysuru wear face mask as a precautionary measure after the recent rise in covid cases

Last rites of Covid victims will be performed in all crematoriums, says Karnataka Health Department

The Karnataka health department has stated that the last rites of Covid victims will be performed in all crematoriums as per the guidelines provided by the government. A circular was issued in this regard by Health and Family Welfare Services Commissioner Randeep D on Thursday after some crematoriums in Bengaluru refused to accept bodies of those who succumbed to coronavirus. "There are no specific designated facilities in Karnataka for the cremation of deceased coronavirus persons. In a circular issued on January 11, it

has been stated that the last rites of Covid victims shall be performed in all crematoriums as per the guidelines provided by the government and no crematorium shall refuse to accept such deceased persons," Randeep told PTI. According to official data from the state health department, the total number of Covid related deaths in the state since December 15, 2023, is 28. As of January 11, there were 993 active cases of coronavirus in the state. Out of these, 937 are under home isolation while the remaining 56 are hospitalised, it stated.

Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) from all health facilities for an early detection of a rising trend of cases. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest" given its rapidly increasing spread but said it

poses a "low" global public health risk.

The JN.1 sub-variant of the coronavirus was previously classified as a variant of interest (VOI) as part of the BA.2.86 sub-lineages, the parent lineage that is classified as a VOI, the world body said. — PTI

Xiaomi files appeal against ED's seizure of ₹5,551.27 cr

A division bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Friday heard an appeal filed by smartphone maker Xiaomi challenging a single-judge order which had upheld the Enforcement Directorate's seizure of Rs 5,551.27 crore from its bank accounts. The bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice M G S Kamal heard the arguments submitted by the counsel for the company before adjourning the hearing to January 20. The Court specified that there would be no further extensions and both the company's counsel and the government advocate were expected to complete their arguments on that date.

The counsel for the company argued that the seizure was unnecessary and under Section 37A of FEMA even the necessity of suspicion is not required. Even the qualification of the "authorised officer" to take action was not prescribed. The court was told that Section 37A "seems to be clearly draconian", as for 30 days after the seizure the company has to only wait for the authority to decide on it. "Why should I be deprived of my property due to arbitrary action of an officer? Worst thing which shocks me is that the officer goes scot-free and I cannot tell him you have



done it wrongly and please recall your order, you are biased against me," the counsel argued.

The counsel argued that Section 37A was arbitrary and draconian. The Enforcement Directorate had in 2022 ordered the seizure of Rs 5,551.27 crore in the accounts of Xiaomi for violating FEMA rules and transferring money in the guise of royalty to three companies outside India; two in the USA and one in China. The company approached the HC against this order.

The HC ordered it to approach the Competent Authority under FEMA. The Competent Authority upheld the seizure. Xiaomi then approached the HC again. In April 2023, Justice M Nagaprasanna dismissed the petition holding that Section 37A of FEMA was valid. However, liberty was granted to Xiaomi to approach the Appellate Tribunal.

— PTI

Child murder: Accused start-up CEO taken to crime scene

Suchana Seth, the chief executive officer of an AI start-up arrested by Goa Police for allegedly killing her four-year-old son, was taken to the crime scene on Friday.

Police had said earlier that she would be taken to the service apartment at Candolim to recreate the crime scene. "The accused showed police the cutter with which she slashed her wrist. She also showed how she packed the child's body in a bag. But she continues to deny that she killed her son," a senior police official said. Seth was not willing to go with the police team to the apartment, but inspector Paresh Naik of Calangute police station managed to persuade her and took her to the spot in a police van, he said. She was taken back to the police station after almost an hour. Seth (39) checked into the apartment on January 6. Before checking out two days later, she allegedly killed her son. She then travelled to neighbouring Karnataka in a taxi, carrying the child's body in a bag. On Monday night she was arrested at Chitradurga. She told interrogators about her troubled marriage but denied to have committed the murder. According to the autopsy report, the child was smothered with a piece of cloth or pillow.

— PTI

Exceed wins plum in resplendent style

Plum event at the Winter races attracted five bred in purple colts and three fillies



Smita Bajoria and Cheriyan Abraham presenting the CM and BM Varma Million Memorial Trophy to proud owner Marthand Mahindra (right) after Exceed won the feature event

Ikram Khan
mybangaloremirror
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To the delight of the railbirds, the favourite Exceed from the stables of Sulaiman Attaollahi made a smashing debut in the CM Varma and BM Varma Memorial Million, the plum event at the Winter races.

The rich event which attracted five bred in the purple colts and three fillies saw the top colt Exceed, piloted by top saddle artiste Trevor Patel, show a clean pair of heels to his seven rivals while gallop-

ing home to pick up five lakh in stakes on offer to the winner.

Horse owner and promoter of the sport, Smita Bajoria and Cheriyan Abraham, sponsors of the event, pleased with the result, disclosed that they were most pleased to witness a top colt emerging on top. The winner apart, it was good to see a full house at the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) and that's a good sign for the game," said Cheriyan adding that they may make it an annual affair, after the good response the feature event generated before the Derby on Republic day.



IN HINDI AT: PVR - INOX CINEMAS (DIRECTORS CUT, FORUM REX WALK, 9:40, 12:45, 7:05 p.m.) | NEXUS FORUM MALL, KORMANGALA, 9:00, 12:05, 4:10 p.m.) | ORION MALL, YESHWANTPUR, 4:05, 10:00 p.m.) | VAISHNAVI SAPHIRE MALL, TUMKUR ROAD, 12:35, 6:45 p.m.) | VEGA CITY MALL, 12:30, 9:55 p.m.) | MSR REGALIA, 9:10, 3:30, 9:45 p.m.) | PHOENIX MARKET CITY, K.R. PURAM, 9:50, 12:55, 7:10 p.m.) | BHARTIYA CITY, 9:20, 10:15 p.m.) | GT WORLD MALL, AURA PARK SQUARE, WHITEFIELD ROAD, 6:45 p.m.) | SPIRIT MALL, 8:55, 7:10 p.m.) | VR MALL, WHITEFIELD ROAD, 9:40, 4:05, 9:50 p.m.) | GLOBAL MALL, NAYANDALLI, 1:05, 10:20 p.m.) | UPTOWN OMR MALL, 12:00, 6:45 p.m.) | SUPERPLEX FALCON CITY, 4:05, 10:15 p.m.) | GARUDA MALL, 12:30, 10:00 p.m.) | BROOKFIELD MALL, 4:25 p.m.) | LIDO, 7:05 p.m.) | GALLERIA MALL, RMZ YELAHANKA, 12:20, 6:45 p.m.) | SBR HORIZON, SEEHALLI, 12:30, 6:55 p.m.) | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS (ROYAL MEENAKSHI MALL, 10:00, 7:20, 10:25 p.m.) | ETA MALL, BINNY MILL, 10:00, 1:00, 10:00 p.m.) | EAST ORION MALL, 12:55 p.m.) | SHANTINIKETAN, 10:00, 1:00, 10:30 p.m.) | SJR SPECTRUM MALL, 10:00, 4:30, 10:30 p.m.) | LULU MALL (TRD), 10:30, 1:30, 7:35 p.m.) | LULU MALL (VIP), 10:00 a.m.) | GOPALAN CINEMAS (ARCADE MALL, 4:30, 10:00 p.m.) | LEGACY MALL, 10:00, 3:00, 7:15 p.m.) | SIGNATURE MALL, 10:30, 7:00 p.m.) | INNOVATION HALL, 4:30, 10:00 p.m.) | INNOVATIVE (MARATHALLI), 9:30, 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20 p.m.) | CINEPHILE (HSR LAYOUT, 10:30, 4:45, 7:40 p.m.) | ROCKLINE CINEMA MALL (JALAHALLI CROSS, 7:10, 10:15 p.m.) | CINE GALAXY (SURATKAL, 1:00 p.m.) | MOVIE TIME (DAVGANERE, 1:00 p.m.) | ABHINAV (K.G. ROAD, 10:30, 1:30 p.m.) | PVR - INOX CINEMAS (FIZA MALL, MANGALORE, 12:30, 7:10 p.m.) | FORUM MALL, MYSORE, 3:45, 9:50 p.m.) | GARUDA MALL, MYSORE, 9:10, 3:50 p.m.) | CENTRAL MANIPAL, 10:10 p.m.) | SATYAM MALL, MYSORE, 8:55, 7:05 p.m.) | S MALL, TUMKUR, 12:40, 7:25 p.m.) | CINEPOLIS (CITY CENTRE MALL, MANGALORE, 12:20, 3:55, 6:55 p.m.) | BHARATH CINEMAS (MANGALORE, 10:00, 1:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m.) | MANIPAL, 10:15, 4:30, 7:45 p.m.) | KUNDAPUR, 10:15, 7:00 p.m.) | PUTTUR, 1:15, 4:15 p.m.) | SHIMOGA, 1:30, 10:15 p.m.) | DRC CINEMAS (MYSORE, 7:05 p.m.) | BALAJI DELUXE THEATRE (MYSORE, 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 p.m.) | R R MULTIPLEX (BELLARY).

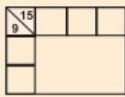
IN TAMIL AT: PVR - INOX CINEMAS (ORION MALL, YESHWANTPUR, 1:00, 7:10 p.m.) | VEGA CITY MALL, 3:30, 6:35 p.m.) | SUPERPLEX FALCON CITY, 9:00, 7:10 p.m.) | GARUDA MALL, 12:25 p.m.) | LIDO, 12:40, 10:00 p.m.) | MANTRI MALL, 9:00, 12:30, 7:00 p.m.) | CENTRAL MALL JP NAGAR, 12:30, 6:55 p.m.) | FORUM NEIGHBOURHOOD MALL, 12:30, 6:55 p.m.) | GARUDA, YELAHANKA, 3:45, 10:00 p.m.) | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS (ROYAL MEENAKSHI MALL, 12:55 p.m.) | ETA MALL, BINNY MILL, 7:30 p.m.) | EAST ORION MALL, 6:50 p.m.) | SHANTINIKETAN, 7:30 p.m.) | SJR SPECTRUM MALL, 5:45 p.m.) | LULU MALL (TRD), 10:35 p.m.) | LULU MALL (VIP), 7:30 p.m.) | GOPALAN CINEMAS (LEGACY MALL, 1:00 p.m.) | GRAND MALL, 4:15, 9:45 p.m.) | MOVIE TIME (DAVGANERE, 4:30 p.m.) | SHARADA THEATRE (SP ROAD, 4:15, 9:45 p.m.) | PVR - INOX CINEMAS (GARUDA MALL, MYSORE, 10:30 p.m.) | DRC CINEMAS (MYSORE, 10:05 p.m.) | SUCHITRA PRABHATH (MANGALORE, 10:00, 7:00 p.m.).

IN TELUGU AT: MOVIE TIME (BELLARY, 1:00, 8:00 p.m.).

FARNAZ

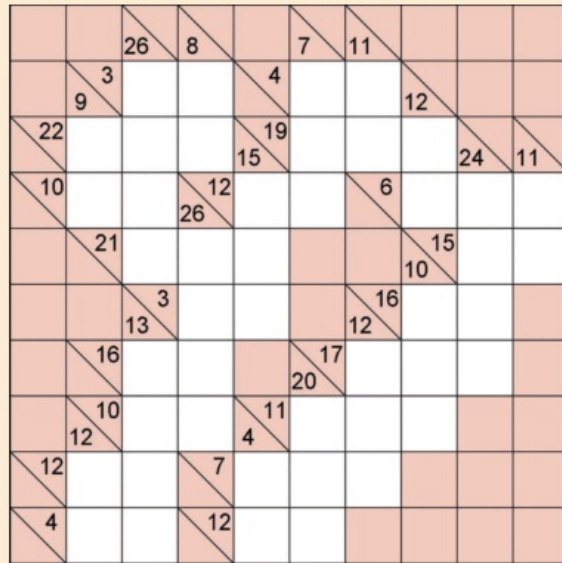
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

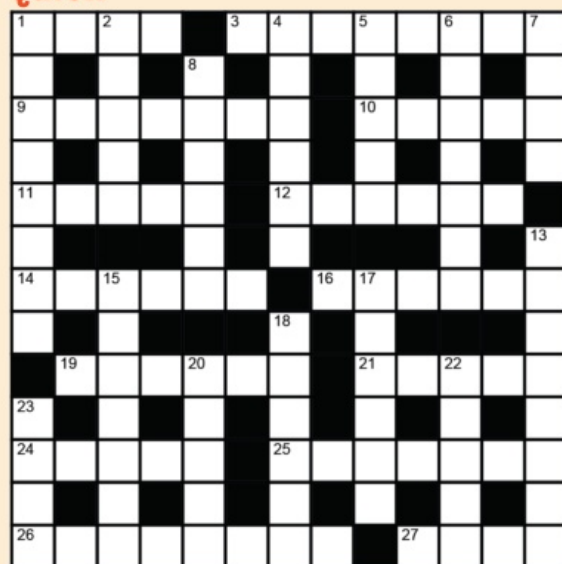


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Biryani base (4)
- 3 Disappeared (8)
- 9 Investigate or examine (3,4)
- 10 Wishful words (1,4)
- 11 Sponge (5)
- 12 Small (6)
- 14 In a uniform manner (6)
- 16 Foundation author Isaac (6)
- 19 Insist upon (6)
- 21 Bury (5)
- 24 Punished - "dance" anagram? (5)
- 25 Korean electronics giant (7)
- 26 Of the Continent (8)
- 27 Extras at cricket (4)

DOWN

- 1 Determines with conviction (8)
- 2 Formula of belief (5)
- 4 Hospital on Bannerghatta Road (6)
- 5 Foolish one (5)
- 6 Ruffian (7)
- 7 Fight between two people (4)
- 8 Available if needed (2,4)
- 13 Means (8)
- 15 Rigby: Beatles hit (7)
- 17 Mark of infamy (6)
- 18 Black Sea port in Ukraine (6)
- 20 Total (3,2)
- 22 Really or indeed? (5)
- 23 Highest point (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS D
HVA PGIYY NY IULIWY PGAAG-
AG ROTA WRJ ERO'H VIMA HR
DRL I UILO IOWDRGA.



Linemaro

I like your Facebook status



Mindchow

If people treat you badly, let God deal with them because hate in your heart will consume you too



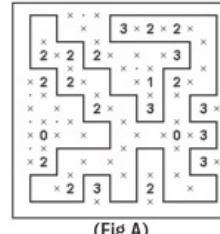
Joke of the day

My husband can do the work of two men. Unfortunately, those men are Laurel and Hardy

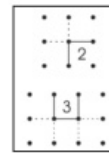
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

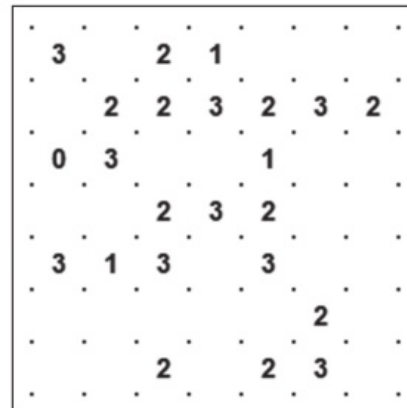


(Fig B) Not Allowed

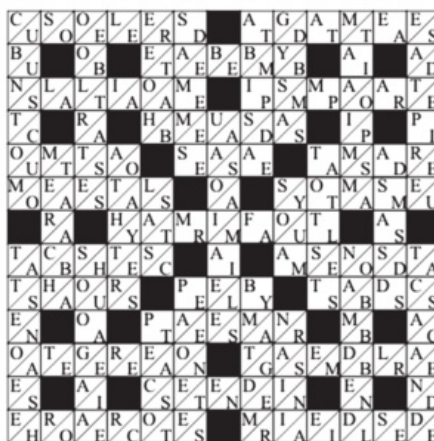
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

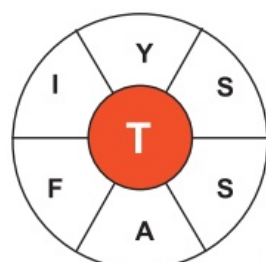
- 1 Maces; 6 Hits R;
- 7 Ridge; 8 Ion in;
- 9 Cotan

DOWN

- 1 Cadis; 2 Chain;
- 3 In rim; 4 Roget;
- 5 Tones

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



1, 31, 59, 85, 109, ?

Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

$\square \square \square \square = 2$

4 4 5 7

Medium

$\square \square \square \square = 18$

4 4 4 6

Hard

$\square \square \square \square = 21$

3 4 8 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hand is different. 2. Window is not as wide. 3. Ear is larger. 4. Hair is different. 5. Hat is different. 6. Paper on desk is moved.

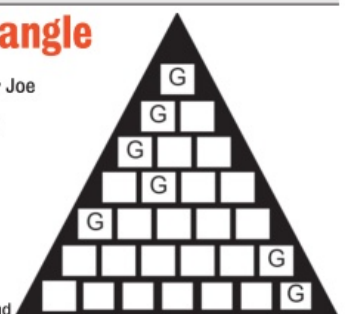
Riddler

What do these four words have in common? Opine, Usage, Steal, Cline

Alpha triangle

- 1 7th letter
- 2 American soldier Joe
- 3 Card game
- 4 Hindu god of fire
- 5 Titan
- 6 Moderating
- 7 Taunting

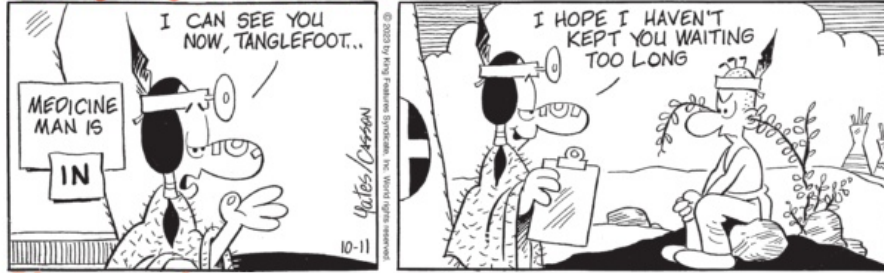
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



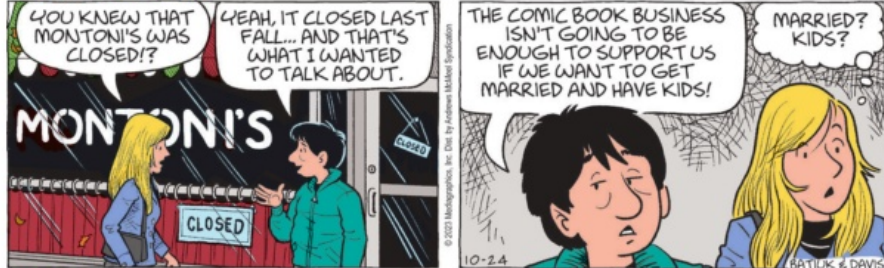
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you may not feel better; old health issues may arise, and it may make you upset. You may make some wrong decisions due to impatience and hurry. It is advised to think twice before making any decision. It is advised that you should not keep money loose; otherwise, you may spend it on buying worthless stuff.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture. You are likely to face losses in the business. Your gains are likely to be converted into losses.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may be able to complete a difficult task very easily, which may boost your confidence level. Your past investments may give you good gains. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; it may waste your precious time. You are also advised to control your spending on worthless stuff.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. You are likely to make good gains on your past investments. You may be able to make quick decisions in terms of work, which may give you good gains in the near future.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you may be enthusiastic, which may speed up your project. You may be able to make quick decisions, which will increase your business. You are likely to start a new innovation in partnership. Investments in fixed assets with the business partner are not advised.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work; your hard work may pay you now, which may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with the siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with an influential person may boost your network. You may also expect some short trips.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today you may be busy at work, but with the help of your strong network, you may be able to implement your plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you gain profits from past investments. You may enjoy your romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase harmony in your domestic life. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy, and old health issues may be cured now. The amount, which was stuck somewhere, is likely to be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan to buy some stuff related to luxury.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills. You are polite with the people around you, which may increase your respect. You may make some difficult decisions in business with the help of your colleagues.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed work. There are some gains in your business that may boost your finances.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may give you confidence. You may be able to make important decisions confidently. You are also decisive, so you may grab the opportunity without a second thought. You will also plan for higher studies. You are likely to meet with some intellectual people; you may exchange views with them.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today you are blessed by the moon; it's a good day for you. If you have good vitality, you may enjoy work and romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start some new project, and your perfection may help you design the flow chart. Job seekers will find a suitable job. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.



KIDZONE



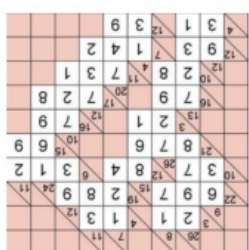
Dhanush K,
13 Years,
Indiranagar
Cambridge
School



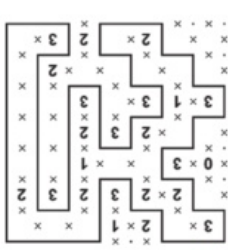
Akash N,
13 Years,
Indiranagar
Cambridge
School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror; No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

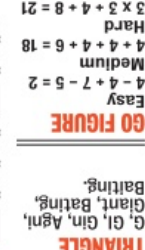
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULLS EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

New take

Kristen Stewart has fresh perspective about Twilight series

Actress Kristen Stewart has a very different perspective on the Twilight series over a decade after the franchise premiered.

While the films center around a heterosexual love triangle between Bella Swan (Stewart), Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) and Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner), Stewart, 33, said that she can "only see" the series as gay now.

"I don't think it necessarily started off that way, but I also think that the fact that I was there at all, it was percolating," Stewart told Variety.

"It's such a gay movie. I mean, Jesus Christ, Taylor and Rob and me, and it's so hidden and not OK. I mean, a Mormon woman wrote this book. It's all about oppression, about wanting what's going to destroy you. That's a very Gothic, gay inclination that I love."

Amid the film's success, Stewart and Pattinson, 37, began romancing from 2009 to 2013. Years later, Stewart came out during her monologue on Saturday Night Live when she called herself "so gay" while talking about former President Donald Trump tweeting about her relationship with Pattinson, reports usmagazine.com.

"It was cool to frame it in a funny context because it could say everything (about my sexuality) without [my] having to sit down and do an interview," she said.

"So what platform is that going to be on? And who's going to make money on that? And who's going to be the person that broke it? I broke it, alone."

—IANS



SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Maiden movie

Master Pavan, the son of music director Ravi Basrur, has got his first lead role in Sandalwood with Click. Though Pavan debuted as an actor in the film Girmity, it is Click that has made him a full-fledged hero.

Shashi Kiaran, a software engineer, has bankrolled Click under the Sharanya Films banner. Along with Pavan, the movie features Karthik, Chandrakala Mohan, Rachana Dasarath, Sanju Basayya, Silli Lalli Anand, and Sumana Shashi.

"I bankrolled this movie to gain experience to make Kannada movies. I learnt a lot by watching Kannada movies. I am very happy to realise my dream of making a movie in Sandalwood. I narrated the script to music director Ravi Basrur. He advised me not to select Pavan because he is his son, but to have an audition and I followed his advice. I conducted a workshop for the actors before the movie went on floors," said Shashi Kiaran.

Click - has a tagline 'The talent in you'. According to Shashi Kumar, the movie is a drama that discovers how neglected children think and behave at their home and school. "Though I am a producer for this movie, I am involved in every stage of the movie. I was involved in selecting artistes, costumes, location, editing, DI (digital intermediate), and music," Shashi Kiaran said.



Lucky artiste

Akash, a 9th grade student who played younger Vinod Prabhakar in the movie Fighter, is set to become a busy child artiste in Sandalwood. After having learnt the basics of acting, Akash will now be seen in four to five Kannada movies.



A few producers have announced their plan to bankroll movies on the occasion of Akash's birthday on January 9.

"Movies are my passion. I got the much-needed encouragement and support from my parents. I am undergoing training in stunts under the guidance of Thriller Manju. I am learning acting from Lucky Shankar. I am also learning to dance. I am ready to face the camera with confidence," said Akash.

He said that a few directors have narrated scripts to him. "Four producers have come forward to make movies with me. I consider my birthday (January 9) as special. I continue acting in movies and also focus on my education," he said.

Producer Muneendra K Pura said that he watched Akash's performance in Fighter. "His acting is good. I am making arrangements to bankroll a movie for Akash," said Muneendra.

Producer Naveen announced the plan to make a movie with Akash and Jagadish N Chairman has announced to bankroll a movie with him. Somasekhar Kattigenahalli has a plan to launch a movie for Akash after Sankranti.

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